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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/334,693	06/16/1999	ONCHUEN D. LAU	81862.P116	5614
7590	05/12/2004		EXAMINER	
TAREK N FAHMI BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD 7TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025		JAGANNATHAN, MELANIE	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2666	/0
			DATE MAILED: 05/12/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/334,693	LAU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Melanie Jagannathan	2666	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-44 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-44 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-21, 23-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Parry et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,822,381.

Regarding claims 1-4, 12-14, 23-26, and 34-37, the claimed maintaining a synchronization state of a number of components of a distributed system is anticipated by clock system with plurality of local clock circuits synchronizing with global source clock. Filter circuit (Figure 7, element 704) of local clock circuit (element 602) uses local clock signal to implement sampling window within which edge of global clock signal is expected. See columns 1-2, column 5, lines 29-67, and column 6. The claimed local clock generating circuit can switch between states including synchronization state and alarm state is disclosed by local clock circuit (Figure 7, element 602) including filter circuit (element 704) where filter circuit produces increment signals and error signals representing synchronization or error states. The claimed components comprising line and/or switch cards is disclosed by memory multiprocessor system (Figure 1, element 100) with system bus, global clock and processor subsystems each with local clock.

Regarding claims **5-11, 15-21, 27-33, and 38-44**, the claim entering of alarm state, missing clock state, extra clock state is disclosed by depending on when edge of global clock signal occurs, inside or outside of sampling window, filter circuit of local clock circuit will produce a missed edge signal, extra edge signal. Error counter (Figure 7, element 708) maintains count of missed edge signals and extra edge signals to generate global clock fail signal and a global clock error signal. See column 6, lines 1-38. The claimed entering back into synchronization state after alarm, missing clock or extra clock state is disclosed by filter and recovery circuit (Figure 8, element 816) producing an edge seen signal used by error counter to reset the missed edge and extra edge counters so that only a predetermined number of missed edges that have occurred without edge occurrence will result in global clock fail signal. See column 7, lines 44-63.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Examiner indicated claims **5-11, 15-21, 27-33, and 38-44** as allowable subject matter in office action dated 10/21/2003. After further examination, Examiner has determined that the above claims were indicated as allowable subject matter in error and submits new grounds of rejection. Examiner regrets any inconvenience.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Jagannathan whose telephone number is 703-305-8078. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 703-308-5463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Melanie Jagannathan
Patent Examiner
AU 2666

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